

Message Text

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17

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 EB-11 FEA-02 INT-08

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SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S VISIT TO VENEZUELA

REF: CARACAS 7048

1. PRESIDENT LUIS ECHEVARRIA OF MEXICO BEGAN A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO VENEZUELA JULY 25. THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT IS TREATING THE OCCASION WITH THE FULL REGALIA OF A MAJOR STATE VISIT.

2. DURING THE EVENING OF JULY 25 PRESIDENT PEREZ DECORATED ECHEVERRIA WITH THE ORDER OF THE LIBERATOR. PEREZ' SPEECH ON THIS OCCASION IS REPORTED REFTEL. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S SPEECH, IN RESPONSE, REPEATED THE MAJOR THEMES ALREADY MADE FAMILIAR DURING HIS CURRENT FOREIGN TRIP:

(A) THE NECESSITY FOR THE INTEGRATION OF LATIN AMERICA WAS STRESSED. JUST AS SIMON BOLIVAR ACHIEVED THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF THE AREA IT IS TODAY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CURRENT GENERATION
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TO GAIN ITS ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE.

(B) WHILE LAUDING VENEZUELA'S MOVES TO PROMOTE INTEGRATION, ECHEVERRIA AT THE SAME TIME CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF A LATIN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC CONSULTATION AND CORRDIATION WHICH WOULD COMPLEMENT EXISTING ORGANIZATIONS AND FACILITATE JOINT PROGRAMS OF BROAD PERSPECTIVE SUCH AS THE RATIONAL USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, COMMERCIAL TIES, COORDINATION OF POLICIES IN REGARD TO FOREIGN CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY, MUTUAL ASSISTANCE IN REGARD TO FOOD RESERVES, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INTERCHANGE, AND THE CREATION OF LATIN AMERICAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(C) ASSAULTS ON NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY ALSO OCCUR WHEN STATES YIELD BEFORE FOREIGN INTERVENTION OR COLONIALIST PRETENTIONS. IN CONTRAST, LATIN AMERICAN COHESION BOTH DEFENDS AND STRENGTHENS THE INDEPENDENCE OF STATES.

(D) MEXICO IS CONVINCED THAT IN ORDER TO FIGHT UNDERDEVELOPMENT IT IS NECESSARY TO ACT SOLIDLY ALONGSIDE THE THIRD WORLD AND FOR THIS REASON PROPOSED DURING UNCTAD III THE ADOPTION OF A CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES.

(E) LIKE MEXICO, VENEZUELA WILL SOON CONTROL ITS PETROLEUM AND WILL BE ABLE TO PUT THESE RESOURCES AT THE SERVICE OF ALL ITS CITIZENS. VENEZUELA'S PROBLEM IS NOT THE SCARCITY OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES BUT THE STRUCTURAL IMBALANCE IMPOSED BY FOREIGN DOMINATION. COLONIALISM DOES NOT PROMOTE THE PROGRESS OF MANKIND BUT RATHER THE PROGRESS OF SOME AT THE COST OF OTHERS.

3. ON JULY 26 IN A 30-MINUTE LOW-KEY, UNEMOTIONAL ADDRESS TO A JOINT SESSION OF THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS ECHEVERRIA DREW APPLAUSE ONLY ONCE, WHEN HE DECLAIMED THAT A STATE'S CHOICE OF A PARTICULAR POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC ORGANIZATION DOES NOT JUSTIFY ITS EXCLUSION FROM THE AMERICAN SYSTEM. THE ABSENCE OF CUBA, HE EMPHASIZED, MAKES IMPOSSIBLE A COMPLETE AMERICA. ECHEVERRIA ALSO LAUDED THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES SHARED BY VENEZUELA AND MEXICO. HE PROPOSED THAT THE POLITICAL DIVERSITIES REPRESENTED IN THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS ALSO BE EMULATED IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. HE PROTESTED FOREIGN PRESSURES THAT WISH THE CONTINUATION OF THE EXISTING SIMPLIFIED ECONOMIES IN LATIN COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO PROTECT THEIR FOREIGN MARKETS, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIONS OF TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES, AND NATIONAL INTERESTS THAT WISH TO SUBDIVIDE THE WORLD. SPEAKING OF INTEGRATION HE SAID THAT THE OAS HAS A USEFUL ROLE DURING THE SPOCH OF THE COLD WAR BUT THAT THE LATIN AMERICAN STATES TODAY SHOULD PREVENT ITS USE AGAINST THEIR INTERESTS BY HEGEMONIC POWERS.

4. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE CARACAS MONDAY, JULY 29. DESTINATION IS PRESUMABLY JAMAICA (MEXICO'S 5912). ONE

CARACAS NEWSPAPER HAS ATTRIBUTED A STATEMENT TO MEXICAN PRESS
SECRETARY MAURO JIMENEZ THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WILL "SOON"MAKE
A VISIT TO CUBA. THIS STATEMENT WAS MADE IN RESPONSE TO A REPORTER'S
QUESTION AND NO DETAILS WERE OFFERED.
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